

Andrew J. Spano  
County Executive

Department of Health

Joshua Lipsman, MD, JD, MPH  
Commissioner

September 2009

Dear Colleague,

By now, you should have already received the attached letter from Guthrie S. Birkhead, MD., M.P.H., the Deputy Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), informing you about how to pre-register to receive the novel H1N1 influenza vaccine. Any organization – including medical practices, hospitals, health centers and educational facilities – that has a qualified medical professional to be responsible for the vaccine, is able to pre-register in order to administer the vaccine to its patients, students and staff if they fall into the five priority groups:

- Pregnant women
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months old
- All people from 6 months through 24 years old
- Persons ages 25 through 64 who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel

I am writing to urge you to pre-register with the NYSDOH as soon as possible. Your cooperation and participation are the keys to assuring that all eligible Westchester County residents can get the vaccine. We estimate that as many as **half** of all county residents are among the priority groups.

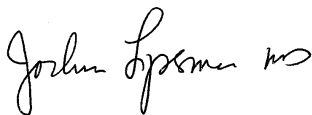
A link to the NYSDOH pre-registration site and other pertinent information is on our website, [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health) in the Professional's Corner, or you can go directly to <https://hcsteamwork1.health.state.ny.us/pub>. Once you have established a Health Commerce System account, pre-registration is simple and quick to do. Pre-registration does not commit you to receive the vaccine nor will it guarantee that you receive the amount you request. However, if you do not pre-register, you will not be eligible to receive the H1N1 vaccine at this time.

Westchester County does not plan any mass vaccination clinics at this time. As always, we encourage residents to go to their regular source of care – who know them best - for the vaccine.

Both the vaccine and the supplies needed to administer the vaccine will be provided to you free by the Federal government. Reimbursement for vaccine administration is likely to be covered by most private health insurers and will be covered by public health insurance (Medicaid/Medicare) plans.

I thank you for your partnership in this important effort.

Sincerely,



Joshua Lipsman, M.D., J.D., M.P.H.

